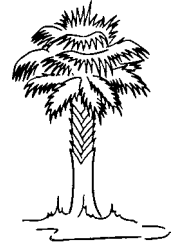

CONCLUSION



The *South Carolina Social Studies Curriculum Standards* presents standards and guidelines for the improvement of social studies education across South Carolina. In addition to the teachers, faculty, and administrators represented on the writing team, numerous professionals and organizations locally and nationally have contributed to the content of this document. These standards offer a vision of what social studies education can and must be if our government is to remain a participatory democracy.

In addition to the high standards that describe what students should know and be able to do in social studies, the *Social Studies Curriculum Standards* presents recommendations for teacher preparation, professional development, the selection of instructional materials/resources, and the use of standards-based instruction and assessment. Several aspects of the document merit particular emphasis:

- These standards are adapted from the most recent national standards in each of the four disciplines: history, government/political science, geography and economics.
- The document offers grade-by-grade standards for kindergarten through eighth grade and two sets of standards for high school: one set for grades nine through ten and one set for grades eleven through twelve. These standards are specific enough for classroom planning but broad enough to allow flexibility in the selection of curriculum, materials, and teaching strategies.

*If the condition of man is to be ameliorated,
as we fondly hope and believe, education is
to be the chief instrument in effecting it.*

—Thomas Jefferson

- The standards call for the integration of the four disciplines in the teaching of social studies.
- The document interprets and articulates social studies instruction as more than teaching one fact after another. The social studies curriculum standards require students to use both knowledge and skills, including making connections among times, events, issues, places, and concepts. In addition to knowing important facts from the disciplines, students need to be able to (a) access and retrieve information from a variety of sources using available technology; (b) understand, analyze, and interpret data and issues; and (c) make decisions based on evidence.

An educated citizenry is the key to a successful democratic society. These standards illuminate the connection between social studies learning and democratic values. If there is to be a citizenry capable of dealing with issues that must be confronted in the twenty-first century, then there must be teaching and learning that prepares students for the challenges ahead. Improving social studies education is central to reaching that goal. However, this effort will require the involvement and ~~support of the people of South Carolina: parents, students,~~ teachers, administrators, and leaders and workers in business and industry—all must work together to realize the high standards reflected in these guidelines.

The implementation of these standards should bring about a new day in social studies teaching and learning in our schools. The

writing team believes that South Carolina is ready for the challenge. Let the work begin!

